

Code A***Strictly Confidential***

Mrs. M. Scott,
Chairman,
East Hampshire PCT,
Third Floor , Raebarn House,
Hulbert Rd,
Waterlooville, Hants
P07 7GP

6th December 2002

Dear Margaret,

Temporary Redeployment

Thank you for your letter of 14th November 2002. I do appreciate the efforts that you and the PCT have made to respond to the issues raised in my letter dated 25th October and, in particular, your stated intention that I should return to my duties as Chief Executive as soon as possible.

I am also grateful for the efforts made by Gareth and yourself to ensure the initiation of the management investigation , for keeping me informed about the process and more generally the activities of the PCT and wider NHS. As we have discussed there are a few points within your letter I would like to comment on.

Continuing Redeployment

I do understand the growing complexity associated with the number of investigations at Gosport Hospital, but feel it important to emphasise that if the management investigation finds there are no grounds for talking disciplinary action then I should be able to return to my post as Chief Executive promptly.

Meetings

Thank you for clarifying the arrangements for contact with Paula Turvey as Acting Chief Executive of the PCT and John Hughes Executive Committee Chair. I do understand the difficulties that could arise if I am seen to be either in a position of influence at this time or seen to undermine Paula's authority. I think you know that that neither would be my intention and I am simply keen to keep up to speed with the activities of the PCT to enable a swift return.

Legal Costs

I am very grateful for the financial support that has been made available to me by the Strategic Health Authority As you know although this has made a significant contribution toward the overall expenditure to date I have also had to bear some costs. I would simply ask that this issue be kept under review

Secondment Opportunities

As you know I have recently spoken again to Gareth about secondment opportunities and he gave me the ok to follow up the options directly .I have therefore now agreed to do some work both for the WDC and DHSC splitting my time equally between the two.

I understand that the management investigation is due to finish around 31st January 2003 and that you will be making a decision about my reinstatement in February 2003. Therefore I now have a clear idea of the timescales I will be working to and have committed myself accordingly.

In addition to the project work I plan to set time aside to support the investigation at Gosport Hospital and am also following up personal development opportunities in association with the NHS Leadership Centre.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement over the last few weeks .The timeframe for the management investigation provides clarity as to when a decision regarding my future can be made which hopefully will enable me to return to my duties as Chief Executive of the PCT.

Best Wishes

Yours Sincerely

Code A

Tony Horne.

Cc Gareth Cuddace